

Docket No.: 1907-0227PUS1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Shuichi WATANABE et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/000563

Application No.: NEW

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: July 22, 2005

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: ENCODING DEVICE AND METHOD,  
DECODING DEVICE AND METHOD,  
PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 17 of this paper.